



County of Kaua'i Charter Commission

Community Informational Meetings

April 3, 12 & 24, 2006

4/25/2006

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1. Should there be a term limit for the Council?

If yes, how long?

- Currently, term limit for Mayor is 8 years (two, four-year terms of office).
- Currently, there are no term limits for the Council.

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2. Should there be districts for the Council?

If yes, how many? *Examples...*

- 3 Districts (following State House areas)
4 at-large members
- 5 Districts (following planning areas)
2 at-large members
- Currently, all members are elected at large.

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3. Must a candidate be a resident of the district?

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4. Can only residents in the district vote for the candidate seeking to represent the district?

Examples...

- only *you* can vote for the candidate residing in your district, or *everyone* can vote for the candidate running from your district
- you can also vote for any at-large candidate

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5. Should there be limitations on who can vote for a Council candidate at large?

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6. Shall Council members be required to serve full-time?

A "YES" vote means that a Council member could not have any other gainful employment.

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7. Should salaries of Council members be fairly increased in the event Council members serve full time?

If YES, in consideration for serving full-time, should Council members be paid more?

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More...

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7. Continued...

If YES, what amount would you propose Council members receive if serving full-time?

Current Salaries

- Members **\$35,100** (12-1-05)
- Chair **\$39,500** (12-1-05)

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8. If Council members have a conflict of interest must they recuse themselves from debate and voting on a measure?

Previous law: required to disclose and vote only if needed for quorum

Current law: disclose and vote

NOTE: The above description is very simplified.

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9. Shall Council be required to request that the State Auditor perform an audit?

Charter Section 3.12 requires that "*at least once every two years and at any other time as may be deemed necessary, the council shall cause an independent audit of all county funds and accounts to be made by a certified public accountant or firm of certified public accountants....*"

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10. Shall all County public records be published on the County's website?

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11. Shall the Salary Commission recommendations for department heads and County Council members be effective unless vetoed by 5 members of the Council?

- Currently, Council can reject the recommendations by 4 votes.
- Currently, Salary Commission recommendations are advisory only.

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12. Shall there be an Office of Commissions & Boards Administrator?

Purpose is to provide necessary staffing, support, training on duties and responsibilities, and education for all members of Boards & Commissions.

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13. Shall all Boards & Commissions consist of a minimum of 7 members, excluding ex-officio members?

- Some Boards & Commissions now have 5 and/or 7 members. Therefore, they would all have a consistent number of members.
- Excludes the Department of Water that has 4 public members and 3 ex-officio members.

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14. Shall all members of Boards & Commissions have staggered terms?

- Currently, some Boards & Commissions are co-terminus (ending at the same time) with the term of the Mayor.
- It has been argued that all Boards & Commissions should have continuity.

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15. Shall all members of Boards & Commissions be appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Council?

Currently, some Boards & Commissions are:

- Appointed by the Mayor, approved by the Council.
- One-half appointed by the Mayor, one-half appointed by Council, one member appointed by other members.

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More...

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15. Continued...

- For continuity in the appointment process, should all Board & Commissions be treated the same?
- Charter amendment in 1986 changed the process from an all-Mayor appointed, and approved-by-Council process.

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16. Change name, responsibility and authority of the Cost Control Commission to Revenue & Cost Control Commission with necessary changes to authority of the Commission?

Commission would forecast revenues for budgeting purposes

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17. Shall a new Fire Commission be created with appropriate duties & responsibilities including the authority to hire and fire the Chief?

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18. Shall the Charter Commission be a permanent Commission with 7 members appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Council, serving staggered terms?

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19. Shall there be a new Parks & Recreation Department?

Currently, the Parks Division is a subdivision of the Department of Public Works. Recreation is a subdivision of the Offices of Community Assistance.

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20. Shall the licensing requirement for the County Engineer be removed?

Currently the Charter requires that the head of the Department of Public Works, the County Engineer, be a "registered engineer."

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21. Shall there be spending limits for the Kaua'i County operating budget?

Currently, there are no spending limits and the County is only required to have a balanced budget.

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22. Shall there be a Real Property Tax Department?

Currently, Real Property Division is a subdivision of the Department of Finance.

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23. Shall signature requirements involving initiative and referendum be reduced from 20% to 5%?

The current requirement is 20% of registered voters.

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24. Shall the number of signature requirements for recall be reduced from 20% to 5%?

The current requirement is 20% of registered voters.

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25. Shall all material requirements for citizen-initiated petitions to be placed on the ballot be specified in the Charter?

Currently, such requirements are only specified by Ordinance.

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26. Shall there be a County Manager form of government?

- The Council would hire and fire the County Manager. There may or may not be a "Mayor".
- The County Manager would have the requisite training, experience and background to perform the duties of a County Manager.
- Currently, the County consists of a Mayor and County Council.

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27. Shall the County Attorney be elected for a term of 4 years?

Currently, the County Attorney is appointed by the Mayor and approved by the County Council.

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Contact Us

- Website - follow the Charter Commission links at: www.kauai.gov
- Email: charter@kauai.gov
- Office:
 - Ms. Edie Ignacio
 - 241-6646
 - 4444 Rice Street, Suite 150
 - Lihu'e, HI 96766

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